

I am new to ham radio (but have been an SWL for a long time) and am opposed to this petition (RM-10784). The challenge of learning and becoming highly proficient at CW and QRP ham radio are the primary factors that are drawing me into the hobby. The current digital modes don't offer enough challenge and the voice modes seem to be becoming more and more like CB every year. Few would dispute that there is much more courtesy among CW ops. Retaining the CW requirement -- especially when either a) supplemented with an expansion of the CW subbands for Technicians, or b) eliminated as a requirement for the Technical class, but retained for General and Extra -- would encourage the efficient usage of the increasingly crowded radio spectrum by a mode that, while simple, is still (arguably) the most effective way to communicate in the hobby.